FROM HEADACHE TO BINSWANGER

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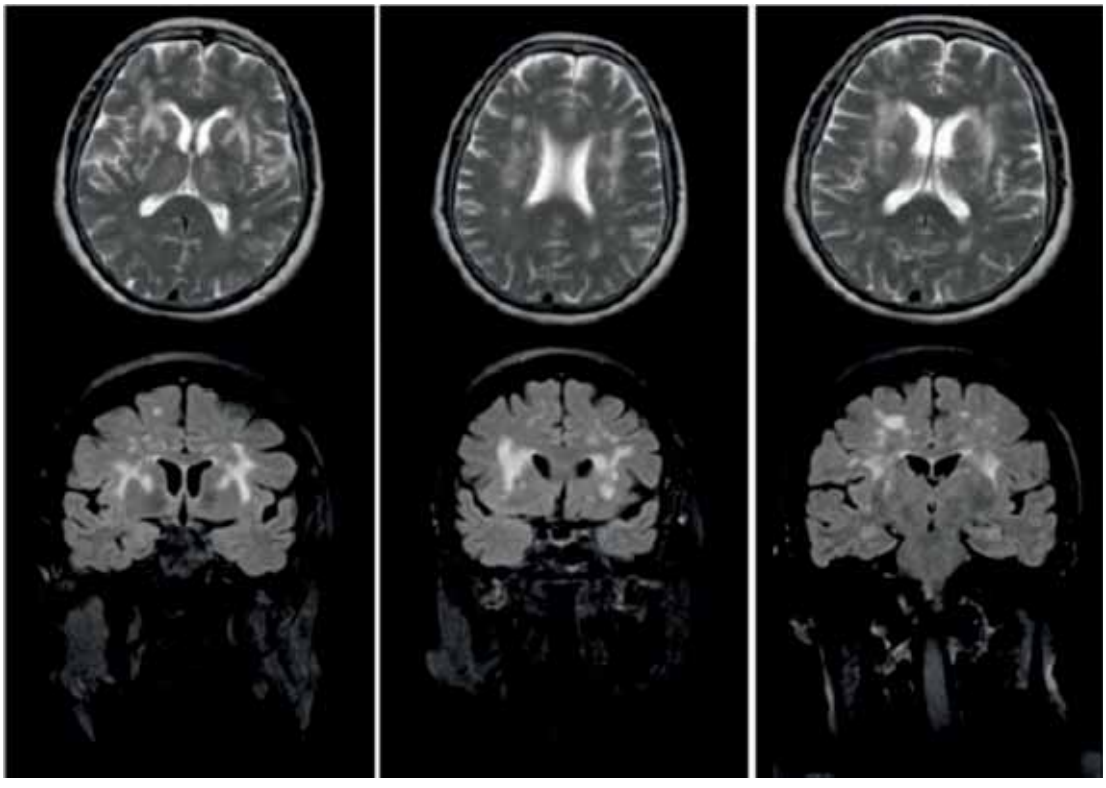
We present the case of a 66-year old female, with hypertension, who presents headache for about 1 year, emotional unsteadiness, and anxious states. Clinical examination revealed nystagmus, upper limb dysmetry, and has a MMSE score of 26 points. Brain MRI emphasized multiple hyperintense lesions on T2 sequences distributed supratentorially, and affecting the cerebral white matter. The differential diagnosis was established between Binswanger disease (subcortical atherosclerotic encephalopathy) and CADASIL syndrome (cerebral autosomal dominant encephalopathy with subcortical infarcts and leucoencephalopathy. The last was ruled out because the patient had no family history of such syndrome.

Binswanger disease is a disease of the small vessels of the brain, and is a progressive multi-infarct dementia. Pathologically, the symmetrical, diffuse, white matter lesions are associated with important atherosclerosis of the small penetrating arteries of the brain, which are thick and hyalinized. MRI findings include subcortical and periventricular lesions visible in FLAIR and T2, lacunar infarcts in the basal ganglia and thalamus (Mai-Lan H, 2014).



Mai-Lan H. Small vessel dementia [Internet]. [place unknown], 2014 [cited 2014 Oct 21]. Available from: radiopaedia.org/articles/small-vessel-dementia-1

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